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February 17, 2010

The Honorable Chaz Vincent  
Environmental Quality Council  
Capitol Building  
Helena, Mt. 59601

Dear Representative Vincent;

I would like to take the opportunity to comment on the issue that has come forth regarding the permitting of sash grinders. I understand that the Montana DEQ is trying to permit these grinders under the auspice of the "Air Quality Permit for Portable Sources. First, I would like to point out that we do not need to impede businesses that are grinding slash and biomass with more regulation, rather we should be offering businesses incentive for the use of these woody products. Are we going to have to get a permit every time we move to a new location, sometimes five or six times a month or more? With Smurfit Stone shutting down, the amount of slash and pulp logs that is going to go up in smoke will be mind boggling, just take a look around the Helena valley and surrounding area. The more we grind and put into a boiler or some other kind conversion facility, the cleaner our air is going to be. If the EQC could draft legislation to address this issue or use some other means of rule making to ward off this unnecessary permit, would be time well spent.

Having just purchased a new grinder to utilize the red and dead timber, we are already going to be paying thousands in business equipment taxes, insurance, payroll and supplies, help us keep Montana air more smoke free. Attached are several pictures of our grinder grinding slash and biomass just south of Helena on one of our Jumpstart jobs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Marks  
Marks Lumber

EQC  
MARCH 5, 2010  
EXHIBIT 27